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IBM Cognos Analytics Author V11

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Topic Break Down

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QUESTION NO: 1

A report author wants to create an Active Report with a Data deck that only prompts for Product line and Year. For each card created, the Order method type broken down by revenue should be shown.

What needs to be done to ensure the data on each card reflects the correct year and Product line?

A. Use a Repeater table in the Card deck.

B. Each card should have a separate query.

C. Filters should be copied from the Data deck to the cards.

D. Use a Master detail relationship between the cards and the Data deck.

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

Use a Master detail relationship between the cards and the Data deck. In an IBM Cognos Analytics Active Report, a data deck acts as a selector that supplies the current member or row context to objects displayed on its cards. Defining a master-detail relationship links the selected data-deck values, such as Product line and Year, to the report object on each card. Cognos then applies the selected values as the detail context for the card, so the revenue visualization or list is refreshed for the corresponding Product line and Year while retaining the required Order method type breakdown.

This relationship is particularly important when the report is designed to create multiple cards from a deck and users can navigate among deck entries interactively. The data deck is the master object, and each card's report object is the detail object. Matching the appropriate query items in the relationship ensures that each card is driven by the relevant selected deck record rather than displaying unfiltered or unrelated aggregate data. IBM Cognos documentation describes Active Reports and their interactive controls in the IBM Cognos Analytics documentation; IBM's product overview also describes the interactive reporting capabilities available in Cognos Analytics: IBM Cognos Analytics.

QUESTION NO: 2

A report author nests a detail list inside a master list and creates a master-detail relationship between the two queries.

Which requirements are needed for the master-detail relationship to work correctly? (Choose two.)

A. The master and detail queries must contain data items that can be mapped as a common key.

B. The master and detail report objects must be placed in nested frames.

C. The master and detail queries must use the same query name.

D. The detail list must use the same query as the master list.

E. The master list must be converted to a crosstab.

ANSWER: A B

Explanation:

The master and detail queries must contain data items that can be mapped as the common business key, such as Customer number or Product line. Cognos Analytics uses the value from the current master occurrence to filter the detail query.

The report objects must be arranged in nested frames so that the detail object is within the context of the master object. This enables the detail list to be evaluated for each occurrence of the master list.

See the IBM Cognos Analytics documentation on master-detail relationships.

QUESTION NO: 3

A report author is configuring a drill-through definition from a summary report to a detail report.

Which statements are true? (Choose two.)

A. The target report must exist before it can be selected.

B. Source data items can be mapped to target report parameters.

C. The source and target reports must use the same package.

D. A drill-through definition can only be used with a crosstab.

ANSWER: A B

Explanation:

The target report must exist before it can be selected in a drill-through definition. If the target report requires values to filter its data, the drill-through definition can map source data items to parameters in the target report.

The source and target reports do not have to use the same package. Drill-through can pass context between reports as long as the target report and its parameter requirements are configured appropriately. IBM documents drill-through reporting in the Drill-through access to another report documentation.

QUESTION NO: 4

An author wants to add a visualization to a Dashboard that emphasizes the magnitude of change in data over time.

Which type of visualization should be used?

A. Pie

B. Area

C. Tree map

D. Word cloud

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

Area is the appropriate visualization because it displays a measure across a continuous time-based axis and fills the space between the plotted values and the baseline. That filled region makes the amount, or magnitude, represented at each point in time immediately apparent, while also showing whether the measure rises, falls, or remains stable. It is particularly useful when a dashboard consumer needs to understand the overall volume of a metric over successive periods, such as revenue by month, incidents by week, or units sold by quarter.

In Cognos Analytics dashboards, an area chart is designed for trend-oriented analysis where the visual emphasis should extend beyond the line's direction to the quantity represented over time. Multiple categories can also be shown as stacked areas when the author needs to see how individual contributions combine into a total over the same time periods. IBM's visualization guidance describes area charts as suitable for showing trends and the relationship of values over a continuous dimension such as time. See the IBM Cognos Analytics documentation on area charts and the broader dashboard visualizations reference.

QUESTION NO: 5

A report author is building an Active Report for mobile use on an iPad. The report contains a list object. The report author wants to ensure the entire list has a consistent size so that it does not affect the report layout.

Which techniques should be used to ensure this? (Choose two.)

A. Specify the exact width for all columns in the list.

B. Specify the exact width for only the measure columns in the list.

C. Surround the list in a defined size block with “Content is not clipped”.

D. Limit the number of rows returned with the use of a style variable on the list.

E. Surround the list in a defined size block with the “Use scrollbars only when necessary” property chosen.

ANSWER: A E

Explanation:

“Specify the exact width for all columns in the list” is appropriate because a list’s rendered width is the combined width of its columns. Defining every column width prevents the list from resizing as data values, headers, or available device display space vary. This is particularly important for an Active Report viewed on an iPad, where maintaining a predictable horizontal layout helps preserve the intended dashboard-like presentation.

“Surround the list in a defined size block with the “Use scrollbars only when necessary” property chosen” is also appropriate. A block with explicit dimensions reserves a stable area in the report layout for the list. When the list content exceeds that reserved area, the block manages the overflow within its own boundaries by presenting scrollbars only when they are needed. The surrounding report objects therefore remain in their intended positions rather than being pushed or resized by a variable-height list. Together, explicit column widths and a fixed-size container provide predictable horizontal and vertical behavior for mobile Active Report consumers. IBM documents report-object layout and container properties in the Cognos Analytics reporting guidance: IBM Cognos Analytics documentation and IBM documentation for Active Reports.

QUESTION NO: 6

What can be done when using a SQL object when not using a stored procedure?

A. Update a database.

B. Insert rows into database.

C. Delete rows in a database.

D. Select rows from a database.

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

Update a database is correct. In Cognos Analytics Reporting, a SQL object lets an author send native SQL directly to the database connection when the report runs. Although SQL objects can be used to invoke a stored procedure, they can also be used for direct database-update processing. This is useful in controlled write-back scenarios, where a report action needs to apply a change to existing data through an SQL `UPDATE` statement rather than retrieve report data through the normal query-and-list reporting flow.

The SQL object is intended for situations requiring database-specific SQL and should be used only when the report author has the necessary permissions and understands the implications of changing production data. The database credentials used by Cognos must have update authority, and organizations should apply their normal transaction control, auditing, and security practices. IBM documentation for Cognos Analytics Reporting describes SQL objects as report objects for executing SQL, including database operations and stored-procedure use. See IBM’s SQL objects documentation and the Cognos Analytics Reporting documentation.

QUESTION NO: 7

A report author wants to apply conditional formatting to a Revenue column when a business condition is met.

Which actions are required? (Choose two.)

A. Create a report variable that evaluates the business condition.

B. Create a conditional style that uses the report variable.

C. Create a master-detail relationship for the Revenue column.

D. Add a page break after the Revenue column.

ANSWER: A B

Explanation:

The author must create a report variable that evaluates the required condition, such as whether Revenue is below a target amount. The author must then create a conditional style and associate that style with the report variable. Cognos applies the style when the variable evaluates to the applicable value.

A query calculation can provide a value used by a variable, but merely adding a calculation does not apply formatting. A master-detail relationship filters related data containers and is not used to control conditional formatting. IBM documents this behavior in the Creating conditional styles guidance.

QUESTION NO: 8

A report author wants to show only Product lines whose total Revenue exceeds $1,000,000.

Which type of filter should be used?

A. A summary filter

B. A detail filter

C. A data set filter

D. A render variable

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

A summary filter is correct because the condition is based on an aggregated value, total Revenue, at the Product line level. Cognos Analytics first aggregates Revenue for each Product line and then applies the filter to retain only Product lines whose totals exceed the specified amount.

A detail filter would evaluate individual transaction rows before the Revenue values are summarized and would not apply the required condition to the Product line total. See the IBM documentation for creating filters.

QUESTION NO: 9

A report developer is tasked to create a drill-through definition in a report.

Which are the generalized steps?

A. Create the target report> Add parameter to target report> Save the target report> Set drillthrough behavior

B. Set drill-through behavior on each report> Select the correct package> Map parameter values passed to target report> Define source report

C. Create a drill-through definition that will allow users navigate from the targeted report to other created reports> Enable report variables for drill-through definitions> Save report

D. Create the target report> Create a drill-through definition that will allow users navigate from the targeted report to other created reports> Enable the drill behavior in the source report

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

The generalized process is to create the target report, create a drill-through definition that will allow users navigate from the targeted report to other created reports, and enable the drill behavior in the source report. A drill-through action needs a destination report first, because that target supplies the report content and, where applicable, the parameters that receive contextual values from the originating report. The developer then defines the drill-through relationship, selecting the target and configuring the values to pass from the source context to the target context. Finally, drill-through behavior must be enabled or made available in the source report so report consumers can invoke the navigation, typically from an appropriate data item, visualization, or contextual menu. This sequence reflects the essential dependency order: the destination must exist before it can be referenced, the navigation definition establishes the connection and context, and the source report exposes the action to users. IBM Cognos Analytics documentation describes drill-through as navigation from a source report to a target report while passing parameter values where needed. See the IBM Cognos Analytics documentation at IBM Docs: Cognos Analytics and IBM's drill-through reporting guidance at Create drill-through definitions.

QUESTION NO: 10

A report author has been asked to create a list report with multiple facts from across the business. The desired outcome must ensure correlated and predictable results.

Which item must be included in the list report?

A. Repeater table

B. Conditional fact

C. Model Query subject

D. Conformed dimension

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

Conformed dimension is required when a list report combines facts from different business areas and must return correlated, predictable results. A conformed dimension is a shared business dimension, such as Time, Product, Customer, or Organization, that has consistent meaning, attributes, and values across the related fact data. It provides the common dimensional context through which measures from separate fact tables can be aligned.

For example, revenue and inventory are separate facts, but when both are analyzed by the same conformed Product and Time dimensions, Cognos can associate each measure with the intended product and reporting period. This dimensional alignment prevents ambiguous combinations and supports meaningful comparisons across business processes. In dimensional modeling, conformed dimensions are specifically intended to enable integration of data marts or fact areas while preserving consistent reporting semantics. Cognos authors therefore need the shared conformed dimension in the report query when reporting across multiple facts that must correlate correctly.

See IBM's guidance on dimensionally modeled relational metadata and IBM's overview of relationships and query subjects.

QUESTION NO: 11

A report author is reviewing a report that returns more data than is required and has slow response times.

Which actions can improve report performance? (Choose two.)

A. Apply restrictive filters in the report query.

B. Remove query items that are not required by the report.

C. Create a separate query for each list column.

D. Add hidden list columns for all available query items.

ANSWER: A B

Explanation:

Applying restrictive filters in the query limits the rows retrieved and processed by Cognos Analytics. Removing data items that are not used by report objects, calculations, filters, or sorting also reduces the amount of data that must be retrieved and processed.

Adding unnecessary queries or report objects increases report complexity and does not improve performance. IBM provides performance guidance in the Improving report performance documentation.

QUESTION NO: 12

A report author uploads files into Cognos Analytics – Reporting.

Which file formats are supported? (Choose two.)

A. Microsoft Excel formatted single sheet worksheets.

B. Any text or Microsoft Excel spreadsheet (xlsx or xls).

C. Text files with data separated by commas, colons, tabs or semi-colons.

D. Text files with data separated by commas, tabs, semi-colons or pipes.

E. Text files must be fixed length without any separator denoting columns.

ANSWER: A D

Explanation:

Cognos Analytics Reporting supports uploaded external data in Microsoft Excel formatted single-sheet worksheets and in delimited text files whose columns use commas, tabs, semicolons, or pipe characters. Uploading these files lets a report author create an external data source for use in a report without requiring the data to first be modeled in a package. For Excel data, the supported upload scenario is a formatted worksheet containing the tabular data to be used by Reporting. For text data, Cognos identifies the columns from one of its supported delimiters, enabling the uploaded content to be interpreted as rows and fields. This is particularly useful for small, report-specific data sets, such as supplemental targets, manually maintained lookup values, or data extracts supplied by a business user. IBM documents external-data upload support and the relevant spreadsheet and delimited-text file requirements in its Cognos Analytics Reporting documentation. See IBM Cognos Analytics: Uploading data and IBM Cognos Analytics: Using external data in reports.